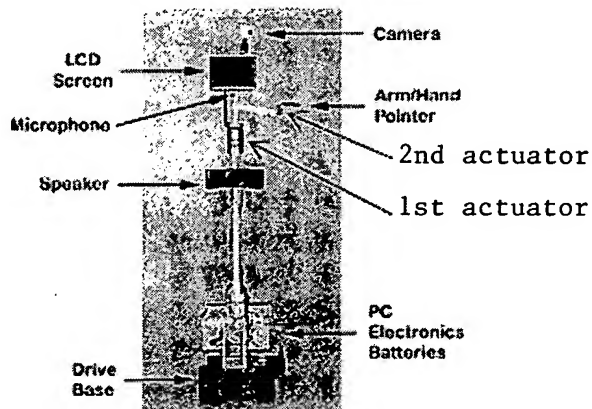


REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-16, 21-24, 26-32 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Paulos in view of Pin, and in further view of Skaar. The claims have been amended to recite a single actuator that moves a second linkage relative to a first linkage in a first degree of freedom in a first mode, and a second degree of freedom in a second mode. Paulos does not disclose a single actuator which provides two degrees of freedom in two different modes. The Applicant refers below to an annotated copy of Figure 2 of Paulos.



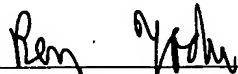
Paulos does not explicitly state how the two degrees of freedom is accomplished for the grasper. The Applicant believes that from a visual inspection of Figure 2, Paulos has a first actuator located in the "neck" of the robot which rotates both the camera and the grasper. The Applicant has designated this actuator as "1st actuator". The Applicant also believes that the Paulos PRoP device has a second rotary actuator at a midpoint of the grasper. The Applicant has noted this actuator as "2nd actuator". Paulos does not disclose or suggest a single actuator to provide two degrees of freedom. In fact, a visual observation of the PRoP suggests two separate actuators. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the combined references must

teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP §2143. Even when combined, the cited references of Paulos, Pin and Skaar do not disclose all of the limitations recited in the claims of the above entitled application. The combined references do not create a robot with an arm that has a single actuator to move a second linkage relative to a first linkage in a first degree of freedom in a first mode, and a second degree of freedom in a second mode. For these reasons, the Applicant submits that the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of claims 1-4, 6-8, 21-24, and 26-28 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
IRELL & MANELLA LLP

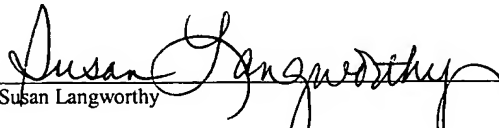
Dated: October 20, 2006


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 20, 2006.


Susan Langworthy